

Swindon Borough Council

Town Twinning Network

Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 6.00 p.m.

**Conservative
Councillors**

Doreen Dart
Brian Mattock
Michael Bray

**Labour
Councillors**

Kevin Small
Junab Ali
John Ballman

Roger Gower, Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

Mr Bruce Clarke, Swindon Ocotal Link

Mike Ide, Wroughton - St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association

Andy Lane, Chattanooga, USA

John Mayell, Swindon Ocotal Link

Committee Officer: Alison Smith (Telephone 01793 463612)

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(Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2012.

5. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links (Pages 5 - 6)

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Town Twinning Network will be held on Wednesday 5th December 2012 at 6pm.

Date of Despatch: 10 September 2012

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

Town Twinning Network - Terms of Reference

The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal) and other existing Twinning Links with towns in the Borough. It will also encourage the development of other international friendship links between the people of the Borough of Swindon and communities in other countries.

The Town Twinning Network will act as a co-ordinating body for interested groups and individuals seeking to promote twinning links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal).

The Town Twinning Network will seek to co-ordinate fund raising and publicity in relation to Town Twinning but will not itself undertake these activities.

The Town Twinning Network will seek to encourage the development of international friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

The Town Twinning Network will receive and consider applications for Town Twinning grants and make recommendations to the Council.

The Town Twinning Network shall not hold funds or enter into any financial transactions.

TOWN TWINNING NETWORK

WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Doreen Dart (Chair), Junab Ali and John Ballman; Mr Bruce Clarke (Swindon Ocotal Link), Andy Lane (Chattanooga, USA) and Hasan Nur (potential link with Somalia).

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Gower, Mike Ide, John Mayell, Councillor Brian Mattock and Councillor Michael Bray.

15. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

16. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

17. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2012, be confirmed as a correct record.

18. Reports from Town Twinning Associations and Links

The Network considered (a) a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services listing the Town Twinning Associations and Links in and around Swindon and (b) the following verbal reports from those Town Twinning Associations and Links present at the meeting:-

Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association

The Chair advised that visit to Salzgitter was currently underway and that the Association now had 10 new members, some of which were participating in this visit to Salzgitter. She also advised that Roger Gower, Chair of the Salzgitter Twinning Association, was now back to good health.

Swindon Ocotal Link (SOL)

Bruce Clarke reported on the following activities:

- Three volunteers (two doctors and a nurse) had recently returned from Ocotal, having spent two and a half months over there. A number of medical cases were dealt with during their visit.
- One of the volunteers, Dr Steve Rhodes took part in a marathon during his visit and, along with other events, raised £1400.
- Three projects were currently underway, two of which were Rotary based:
 1. Provision of electricity for a disability access centre (Swindon Rotary Club)

2. Putting funding proposal together to replace the roof on the Casa Materna (Thamesdown Rotary Club)
 3. Swindon Church seeking to support women of violence.
- A local artist from Ocotal would be visiting Swindon from 1 – 21 October 2012 and would be working with Swindon Borough Council's Art Team.
 - Duck race was to take place at Castle Eaton on 15th July at 1pm at a cost of £10 per person.
 - Bruce advised that he was keen to participate in the Wootton Bassett visit to Blain in August – cost was £100 for four days.
 - SOL meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Civic Offices at 7.30pm.

Chattanooga

Andy Lane reported that there was nothing further to report since the last meeting.

Potential Link with Salahley in Somaliland

Hasan Nur updated members of the Network with the progress of the Somaliland Association. He explained that the community had been in Swindon for about 10 years and that there were currently about 35 members of the Association although the Association did not yet have charitable status. The Association had already raised money to help build a school and a clinic. Hasan had met with the Mayor of Salahley who was keen to develop a link with Swindon and members of the Network agreed that a letter of support/recognition should be requested from the Mayor of Swindon.

19. Town Twinning Review - Report to Cabinet

Members of the Network discussed the review of Town Twinning, as requested by Cabinet and raised the following issues:-

- That Twinning activities should be taken seriously by the Council and the Mayor's office in order to be effective.
- Councillors and officers need to understand the benefits that twinning can bring to Swindon.
- There was a need for a European Officer/someone with the appropriate skills to assist with completing application forms for external funding (currently, this resource does not exist).
- Use of existing resources for visits such as using Lydiard for accommodation and Swindon Commercial Services for transport.
- The role of the Civic badge is particularly important – provides groups with the support they need in order to progress. Need for closer linking with the Mayor's office.
- Access to the Council's web site to promote twinning activities.
- Possibility of changing the name from 'twinning' to, say 'international links'.

It was agreed that the clerk would put together a report for Cabinet and circulate it to members of the Network.

20. Dates of Future meetings

Dates for future Town Twinning Network meetings have been agreed as:-

19th September 2012 at 6pm

5th December 2012 at 6pm
27th February 2013 at 6pm

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Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13 June 2012

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 To provide verbal reports updating members of the Town Twinning Network on the activities of the following Town Twinning Associations and Links since the last meeting held on 28th March 2012:-

- Swindon Salzgitter Twinning Association
- Swindon Ocotal Link
- Swindon Torun Link
- Chattanooga, USA
- Wroughton – St Germain les Corbeil Twinning Association
- Highworth-Pontorson Twinning Association
- Other Twins/Links present at the meeting

1.2 To keep the Town Twinning Network informed of the activities of the Town Twins and Links within Swindon and its surrounding areas and to provide a forum for these groups to exchange information and areas of good practice.

2. Recommendations

The Town Twinning Network is recommended to:

2.1 Note the activities of the Twinning Associations and Links.

3. Detail

3.1 The Town Twinning Network seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links and in the development of other International friendship links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries.

3.2 The Town Twinning Network meets four times a year in order to encourage the development of International friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other Countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information.

3.3 Each of the Town Twins and Links will give a verbal update at the meeting on the activities that have been undertaken since the last Town Twinning Network meeting.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith, Direct Dial 463612, alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.

Reports from the Town Twinning Associations and Links

Town Twinning Network

Date: 13 June 2012

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications relating to this update. Any future activity that has financial implications would be subject to a separate report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 This report has no specific legal or human rights implications.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 This report has no specific implications relating to staff, sustainability, health, rural, crime and disorder.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 There are no specific links between Town Twinning and One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report. This is because it relates to verbal updates from Town Twins and Links present at the meeting, with no changes to staffing, budget or service eligibility criteria.

Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk assessment has not been undertaken.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Alison Smith, Direct Dial 463612, alsmith@swindon.gov.uk.